



Free-Masonry: A Traditional Organization

The Center and the Holy Grail

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“Operative Masonry was a traditional organization of the Christian Middle Ages that transmitted uninterrupted spiritual and initiatory data derived from various orthodox sources. Operative Masonry offered to those who were qualified the support of the Masonic craft to complete the Lesser Mysteries and to achieve an effective spiritual realization. Masonry, besides Alchemy, Chivalry, and Hermeticism in general, constituted the Christian esoteric domain, the sacred kernel of the medieval Christian society. The Masonic guilds possessed not only a secret with respect to their craft (as the profane scholars believe), but first of all an initiatory secret, veiled by the Masonic profession. Within operative Masonry, an initiatory and traditional education took place, the knowledge being transmitted orally and through symbols. The medieval builders and architects possessed an inexpressible operative secret, of an initiatory nature, yet even though "operative", this Masonry was also, we may say, "speculative", since it mastered the art of numbers and that of geometry, transmitted by the Pythagoreans; with the help of these arts, the Masons "planned" the effective spiritual realization.”

